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Test Results Show Arizona American Water in Paradise Valley, Scottsdale Safe to Drink

PHOENIX – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that test results show that customers of Arizona American Water in Paradise Valley and Scottsdale have safe water to drink.

Results of the 16 latest samples received Saturday morning all indicated that levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) were well below the maximum contaminant level permitted by Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) of 5 parts per billion.

Tests conducted after a malfunction at the plant on Wednesday showed levels of TCE three to four times the AWQS, resulting in a ban on nearly 5,000 customers of Arizona American Water customers from using the water for drinking or cooking. The Scottsdale municipal water system is separate from the Arizona American Water system.

“We are continuing to investigate what happened at the water plant and will take steps to keep this from ever happening again,” Director Owens said. “We also are examining possible enforcement action, including penalties.”

TCE is an industrial solvent used to remove grease from metal parts and is an ingredient in adhesives, paint removers and spot removers. Some people who drink water with elevated levels of TCE over many years may have an increased risk of cancer and experience liver problems.

Owens also said that the Arizona Department of Health Services has stated that there was no public health hazard because of the low rate of exposure to the tap water.